HIS FAMILY WAS MURDERED BY A PSYCHOPATH IN AN AGE WHERE JUSTICE CAN BE BOUGHT AND NO ONE BELIEVES IN OLD-FASHIONED PUNISHMENT ANYMORE... NO ONE EXCEPT JAKE GALLOWS... A WEAPONS SPECIALIST IN THE PUBLIC EYE POLICE FORCE BY DAY. AT NIGHT HE IS INCORRUPTIBLE JUSTICE.
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
THE PUNISHER 2099
PUNISHER VERSUS PUNISHER!
MAXIMUM DENSITY!
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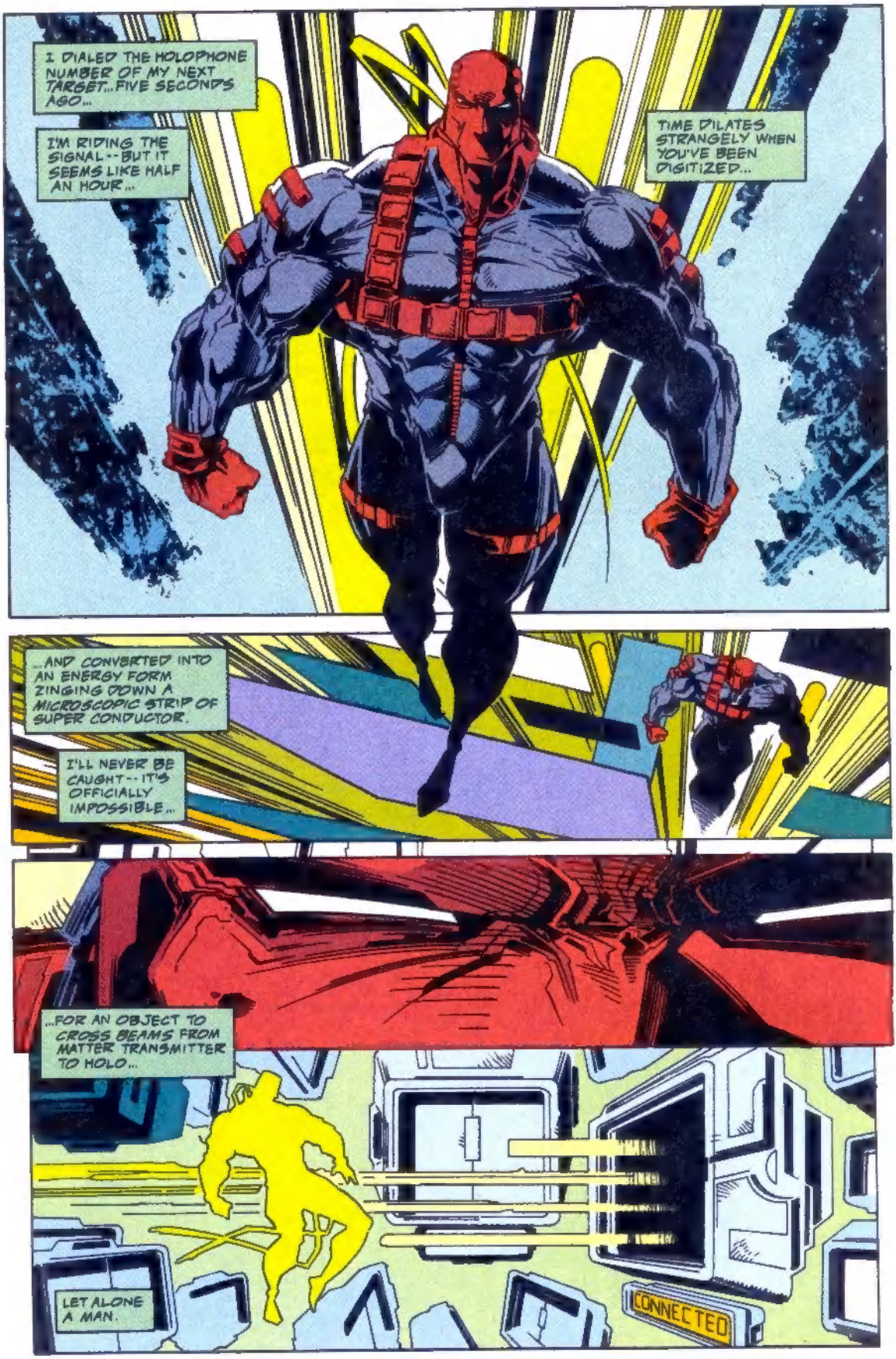
THE ENERGY ACCUMULATORS IN MY SUIT HAVE ABSORBED THE HEAT... CONVERTED IT INTO KINETIC ENERGY...
SO WHEN I HIT HER, IT'LL BE WITH THE FORCE OF A GRAV-TRUCK!
BUT I CAN'T... BRING MYSELF TO HIT A WOMAN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! YOU COULDN'T BRING YOURSELF TO HIT ME BECAUSE OF MY SEX!
DO YOU REALIZE HOW DEMEANING THAT IS TO ME AS A HUMAN BEING?
I'M A WARRIOR-- I DON'T GIVE OR TAKE FAVORS!

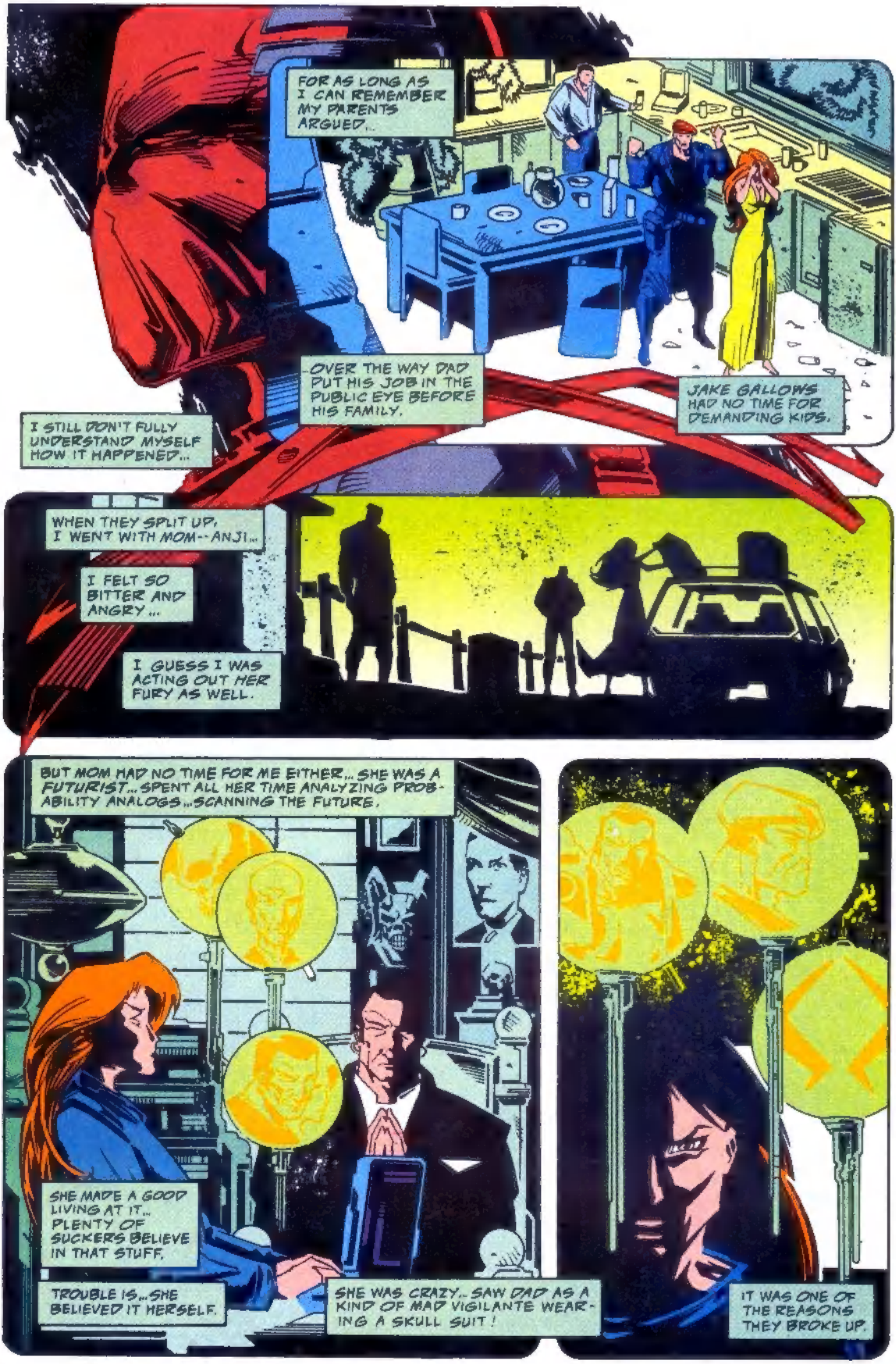
DO YOU THINK I'VE NEVER BEEN HIT BY MEN BEFORE? WE KILLED ONE EARLIER...
I'M NO LONGER A GENE DOLL... THIS TIME I CAN HIT BACK!
YAHHH!
FAIR ENOUGH!
YOU ASKED FOR IT, LADY!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, PUNISHER!

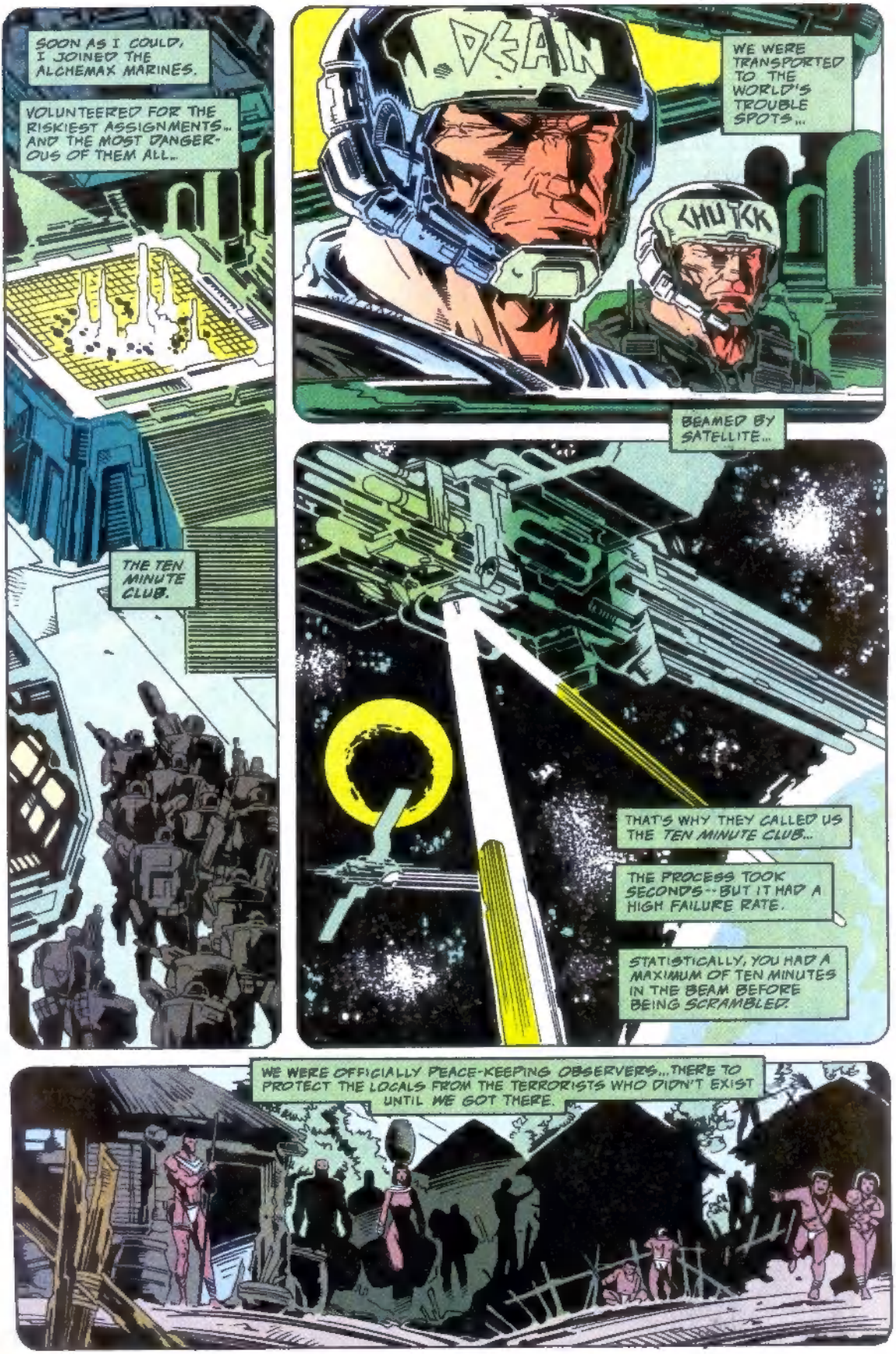
LOOK, VENDETTA -- COOL IT! YOU'VE PROVED YOUR POINT!
NO -- I HAVEN'T. YOU'RE YESTERDAY...
...I'M TODAY...!
I CAN DODGE YOUR BLOWS -- BUT YOU CAN'T DODGE MINE.
I'LL HAVE PROVED THE POINT WHEN I'VE BEATEN THE FACT INTO YOU!

I DON'T NEED THIS CRUD, VENDETTA. I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR PAST...
...BUT IT'S YOUR BAGGAGE--YOU CARRY IT.
I'VE GOT CRIMINALS TO PUNISH!
HAH! MISSED!
BY THE WAY, THAT'S CALLED A FEINT.
TRICKS LIKE THAT COME WITH EXPERIENCE... I'M NOT BETTER THAN YOU 'CAUSE I'M A MAN...
... I'M BETTER 'CAUSE I'VE BEEN DOING IT LONGER.
WHUMPF!
YOU PATRONIZING SONOFA...
ZIP!
ZIP!
ZIP!

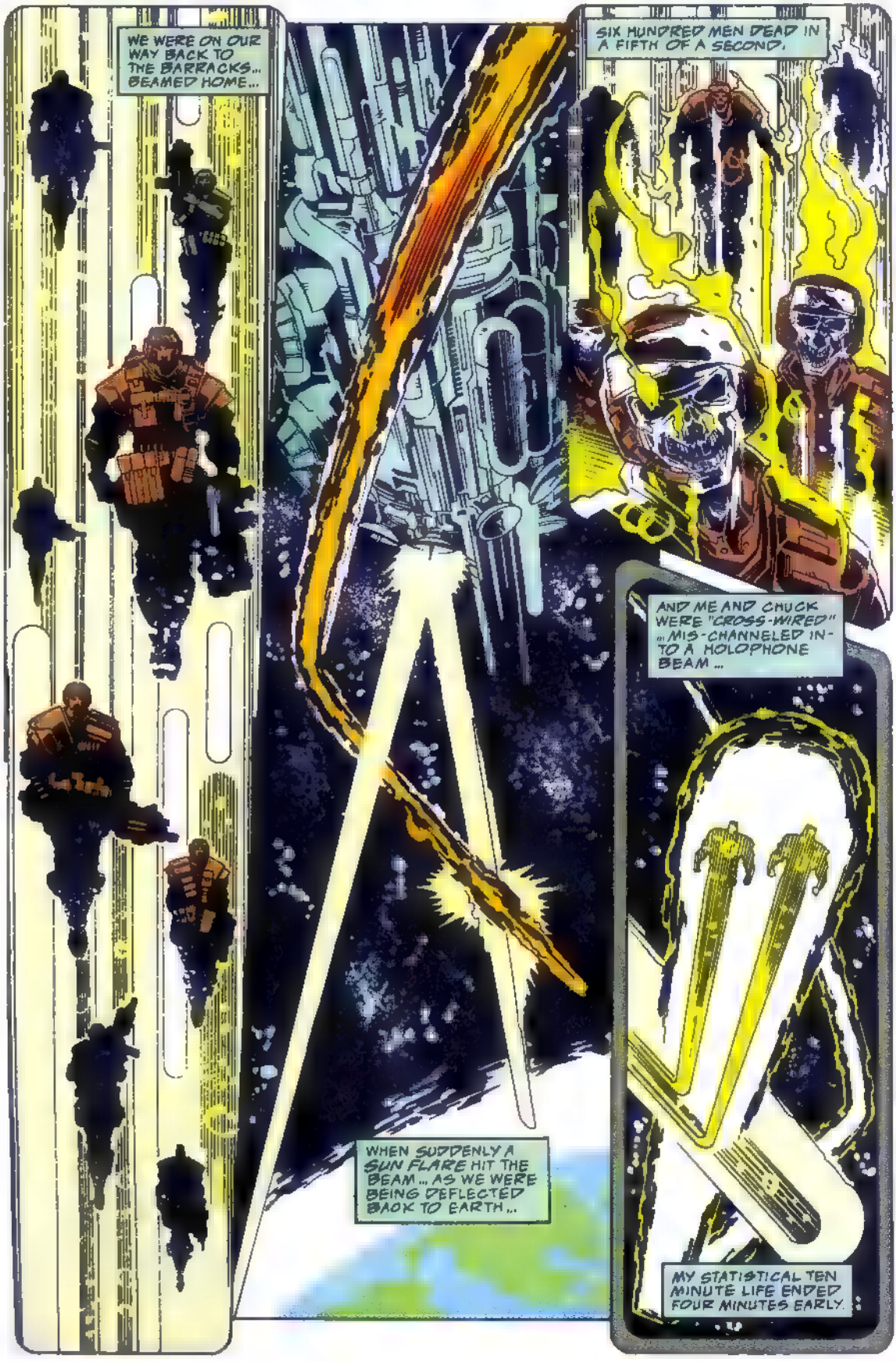
VENDETTA-- BEHIND YOU... DIVE FOR COVER!
HOW STUPID DO YOU THINK I AM?
I'M NEVER GOING TO TRUST A--
AAAGGGH!
PUBLIC EYE FLYBOYS!


I DIALED THE HOLOPHONE NUMBER OF MY NEXT TARGET...FIVE SECONDS AGO...
I'M RIDING THE SIGNAL--BUT IT SEEMS LIKE HALF AN HOUR...
TIME DILATES STRANGELY WHEN YOU'VE BEEN DIGITIZED...
...AND CONVERTED INTO AN ENERGY FORM ZINGING DOWN A MICROSCOPIC STRIP OF SUPER CONDUCTOR.
I'LL NEVER BE CAUGHT--IT'S OFFICIALLY IMPOSSIBLE...
...FOR AN OBJECT TO CROSS BEAMS FROM MATTER TRANSMITTER TO HOLO...
LET ALONE A MAN.
CONNECTED

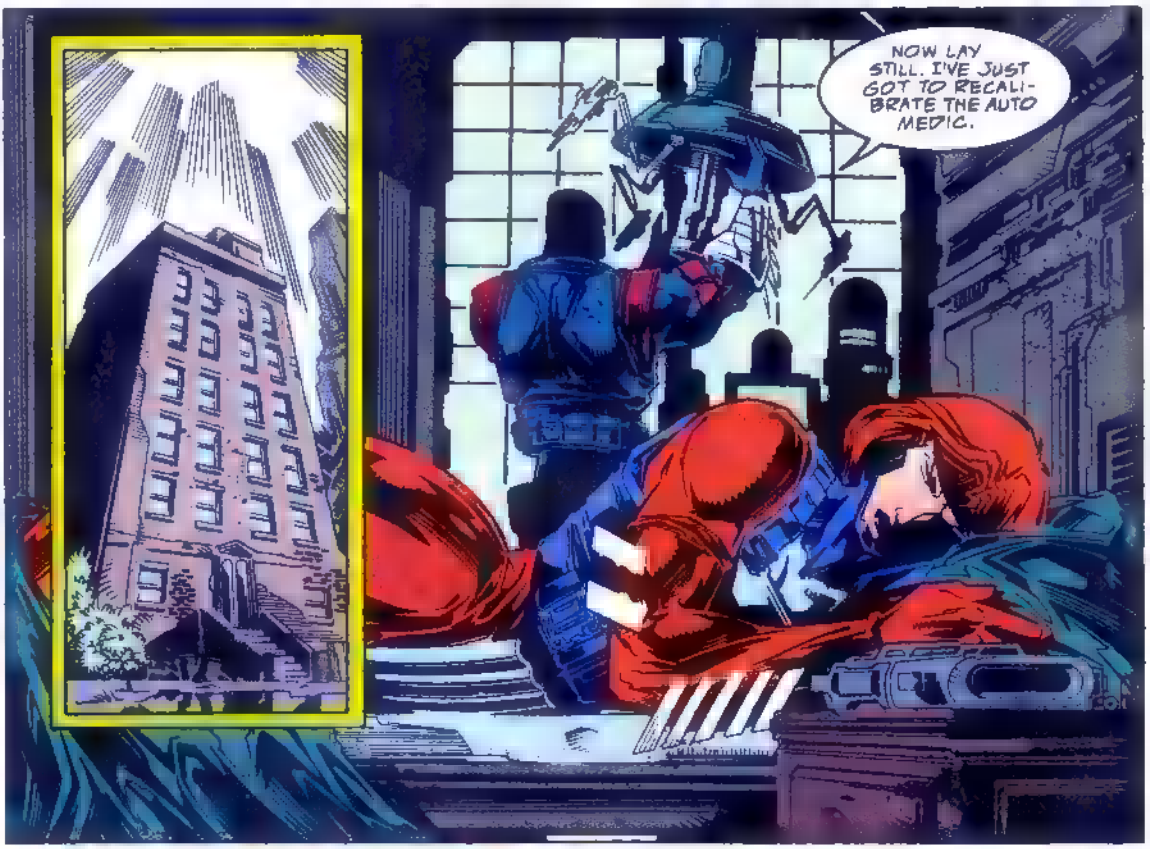

FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER MY PARENTS ARGUED...
OVER THE WAY DAD PUT HIS JOB IN THE PUBLIC EYE BEFORE HIS FAMILY.
JAKE GALLOWS HAD NO TIME FOR DEMANDING KIDS.
I STILL DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND MYSELF HOW IT HAPPENED...
WHEN THEY SPLIT UP, I WENT WITH MOM--ANJI...
I FELT SO BITTER AND ANGRY...
I GUESS I WAS ACTING OUT HER FURY AS WELL.
BUT MOM HAD NO TIME FOR ME EITHER... SHE WAS A FUTURIST... SPENT ALL HER TIME ANALYZING PROBABILITY ANALOGS... SCANNING THE FUTURE.
SHE MADE A GOOD LIVING AT IT... PLENTY OF SUCKERS BELIEVE IN THAT STUFF.
TROUBLE IS... SHE BELIEVED IT HERSELF.
SHE WAS CRAZY... SAW DAD AS A KIND OF MAD VIGILANTE WEARING A SKULL SUIT!
IT WAS ONE OF THE REASONS THEY BROKE UP.

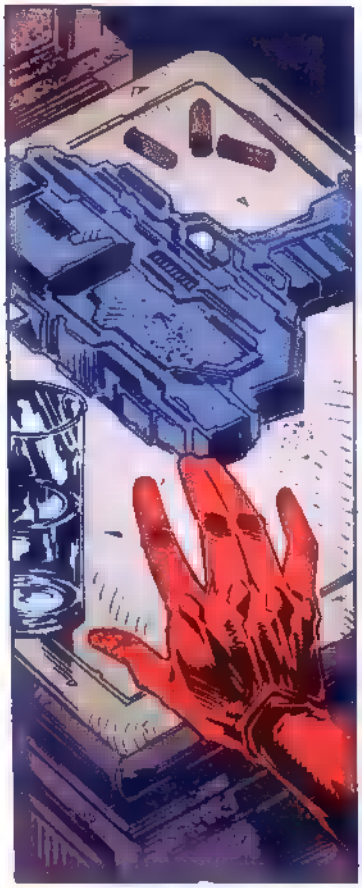

SOON AS I COULD, I JOINED THE ALCHEMAX MARINES.
VOLUNTEERED FOR THE RISKIEST ASSIGNMENTS... AND THE MOST DANGEROUS OF THEM ALL...
THE TEN MINUTE CLUB.
DEAN
CHUCK
WE WERE TRANSPORTED TO THE WORLD'S TROUBLE SPOTS...
BEAMED BY SATELLITE...
THAT'S WHY THEY CALLED US THE TEN MINUTE CLUB...
THE PROCESS TOOK SECONDS--BUT IT HAD A HIGH FAILURE RATE.
STATISTICALLY, YOU HAD A MAXIMUM OF TEN MINUTES IN THE BEAM BEFORE BEING SCRAMBLED.
WE WERE OFFICIALLY PEACE-KEEPING OBSERVERS...THERE TO PROTECT THE LOCALS FROM THE TERRORISTS WHO DIDN'T EXIST UNTIL WE GOT THERE.

ALL 150,000 OF US... HEAVILY ARMED...
HELPING THEM ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENCE THEY THOUGHT THEY ALREADY HAD.
STRANGE THE WAY IT ALWAYS HAPPENED AROUND LAND AND MINES OWNED BY ALCHEMAX.
I WAS UNDER NO ILLUSION... WE WERE THIEVES... RACKETEERS... MUSCLE-MEN FOR BIG BUSINESS.
LOOKING BACK ON IT, WE COULD HAVE GIVEN THE CYBER-NOSTRA A FEW HINTS. THEY COULD ONLY OPERATE THEIR RACKET IN NEW YORK... WE OPERATED ON FIVE CONTINENTS.
OKAY, MEN! GO! GO! GO!
MOP 'EM UP -- AND HOME IN TIME FOR COFFEE!


WE WERE ON OUR WAY BACK TO THE BARRACKS... BEAMED HOME...
SIX HUNDRED MEN DEAD IN A FIFTH OF A SECOND.
AND ME AND CHUCK WERE "CROSS-WIRED" ...MIS-CHANNELED IN-TO A HOLOPHONE BEAM ...
WHEN SUDDENLY A SUN FLARE HIT THE BEAM ... AS WE WERE BEING DEFLECTED BACK TO EARTH ...
MY STATISTICAL TEN MINUTE LIFE ENDED FOUR MINUTES EARLY.

IT SEEMED LIKE AN ETERNITY, THOSE THREE SECONDS I HEADED DOWN THE HOLO-PHONE BEAM...
INCOMING
I FOUND MYSELF MATERIALIZING INSIDE A LUXURY APARTMENT...
WE'VE SOMEHOW INTERFACED WITH SOMEONE'S PRIVATE HOLOPHONE LINE...!
CHUCK... DID HE MAKE IT, TOO?
INCOMING
AH! THIS MUST BE HIM COMING DOWN THE LINE NOW!
WHAT LUCK WE MADE IT ALIVE!
CHUCK!
MMWWWHHR!
HE WAS HORRIBLY MUTILATED BY THE CROSS-BEAM...
WE ONLY LEARNED LATER THAT I'D BEEN EVEN MORE AFFECTED...

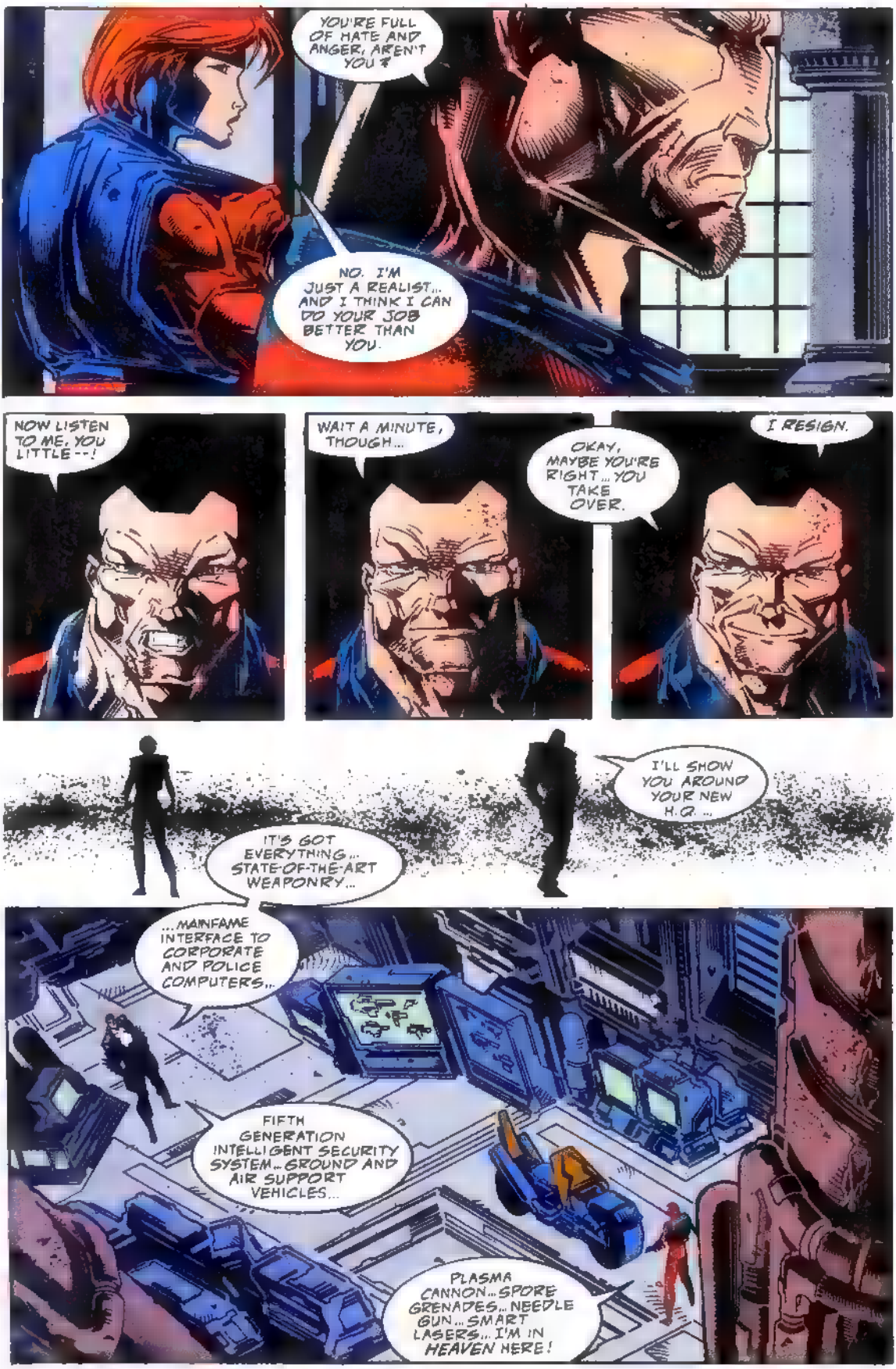

NOW LAY STILL. I'VE JUST GOT TO RECALI-BRATE THE AUTO MED'IC.



I'M PATCHING YOU UP.

YOU WERE HIT... REMEMBER?
OH, YEAH... LASER BEAM FROM BEHIND.
SO YOU WEREN'T LYING.

NOW HOLD ON -- THIS'LL HURT... IT'S A MESSY HIT.
HE WAS SCATTERGUNNING.
WHAT DO YOU -- "MESSY HI
THEY'RE ALL MESSY... YOU COMPLAIN THAT I'M A SADIST BECAUSE-- AAAHH! CAREFUL! -- I USE PLASTI-SHRAP-STICK AND INCENDIGEL...
RIGHT. THEY DON'T PROVIDE A CLEAN KILL.
AND THIS IS CLEAN?
WE BOTH KNOW WHAT A LASER REALLY DOES... IT BURNS INTO THE FLESH AND THEN BOILS THE BLOOD.
THE WOUND ALWAYS GOES SEPTIC AND THE NERVES SELDOM REGROW.
IT'S JUST AS AGONIZING AS INCENDIGEL AND A LOT LESS CERTAIN.
THEY DON'T TELL YOU THAT WHEN YOU SEE ALL THOSE PRETTY ENERGY BEAMS CRACKLING FROM SUPER-HEROES' FINGERS IN THE HOLO-DRAMAS!


YOU'RE FULL OF HATE AND ANGER, AREN'T YOU?
NO. I'M JUST A REALIST... AND I THINK I CAN DO YOUR JOB BETTER THAN YOU.
NOW LISTEN TO ME, YOU LITTLE--!
WAIT A MINUTE, THOUGH...
OKAY, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT... YOU TAKE OVER.
I RESIGN.
I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND YOUR NEW H.Q. ...
IT'S GOT EVERYTHING... STATE-OF-THE-ART WEAPONRY...
...MAINFAME INTERFACE TO CORPORATE AND POLICE COMPUTERS...
FIFTH GENERATION INTELLIGENT SECURITY SYSTEM... GROUND AND AIR SUPPORT VEHICLES...
PLASMA CANNON... SPORE GRENADES... NEEDLE GUN... SMART LASERS... I'M IN HEAVEN HERE!

GOOD... IT'S ALL YOURS IF YOU CAN DO MY JOB.
I THINK I'VE ALREADY DEMONSTRATED THAT.
NOT QUITE...
JUST A FEW DETAILS... FEED THE PRISONERS... OPERATE THE DEATH CHAIR...
PRISONERS...? DEATH CHAIR...? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
SURELY YOU DON'T THINK BEING THE PUNISHER IS JUST RIDING AROUND SHOOTING UP THE BAD GUYS...
WOHHH! BABE!
HEY, HONEY... STEP INSIDE... LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT I'M DOING TIME FOR!
PUNISHMENT IS A SERIOUS BUSINESS.
THIS PLACE DIDN'T ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THIS. IT USED TO BE MODERN AND HYGIENIC -- BUT SINCE MY PARTNER, MATT AXEL, LEFT I'VE MADE IT MORE TO MY TASTE...
YOU'VE GOT A... PRISON DOWN HERE? LIKE ONE OF THOSE PRIMITIVE INSTITUTIONS?!

IT AIN'T ALL BAD... I'M LETTING "NODDING DOG" NEELSON GO...
... IT'S HIS BIRTHDAY... HE'S TWENTY-ONE TODAY.
HEY! THAT'S RIGHT ... IT'S MY BIRTHDAY. I FORGOT.
YOU'RE RELEASING HIM?
WELL, NOT EXACTLY...
I CAN'T EXECUTE A YOUTH... THAT'S WHY I HAD TO WAIT UNTIL HE WAS TWENTY-ONE.
THIS IS JUST ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE JOB I'M SURE YOU CAN HANDLE.
WH... WHAT IS THAT THING? IT LOOKS LIKE A...
IT'S A MOLECULAR DISINTEGRATOR... HELP ME, LADY! HELP ME! HE'S GOING TO VAPE ME!
DON'T FEEL ANY PITY FOR HIM... HE WAS BURNING DOWN AN OLD PEOPLES' HOME WHEN I CAUGHT HIM. IT WAS HIS THIRD ONE.
PLEASE, LADY.. DON'T DO IT... I PROMISE I'LL CHANGE...
ALL YOURS, VENDETTA. PUT THIS SCUM OUT OF MY MISERY.
I... I CAN'T JUST...

FIGURES... HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SON!
ZZZZAAACKKK!

WELL...? HOW DID IT FEEL...
BOSS?
WAIT A MINUTE... I'VE GOT TO THINK ABOUT THIS... I MEAN...
THERE'S A LOT OF CRIMINALS *OFF WORLD* THAT NEED PUNISHING... LOT OF GENE DOLLS NEED LIBERATING... THE UNIVERSE IS A BIG PLACE...
SURE...
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS... I THOUGHT I WAS MEAN... BUT YOU'RE A COMPLETE PSYCHO...
OKAY, PUNISHER... YOU WIN.
YEP.
I'M OUT OF HERE.
AND I KNOW I'M LEAVING NEW YORK IN GOOD HANDS...
THOUGHT YOU MIGHT SEE IT THAT WAY...
COME ON-- WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT... LET ME MAKE YOU SOME LUNCH...

CHUCK!
HELP ME, DEAN... HELP MEEEEE!
CHUCK
DON'T WORRY, BUDDY... DON'T WORRY! I'LL GET HELP!
HOW DID YOU GET PAST SECURITY...?
...YOU'RE THIEVES!
THE PUBLIC EYE TURN UP IN ONE MINUTE FOR A BLACK CARDER.
THOUGHT YOU'D HACK A LITTLE HARDWARE, HUH? WELL, YOU PICKED THE WRONG HOUSE!
NO... YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND...
...WE'RE SOLDIERS... WE'VE BEEN INJURED... WE'RE FIGHTING FOR THE CORPORATION...
BLAM!
BLAM!
WHAT...? HOW COME HE DON'T GO DOWN?
I'M ONLY SEMI-SOLID! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?

I REALIZED THEN THE HYPOCRISY OF IT ALL... NO ONE AT ALCHEMAX WAS GOING TO CARE ABOUT A COUPLE OF INJURED VETS...
WE WERE THE SEWERS OF HUMANITY... A CONVENIENT NECESSITY THAT NO ONE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT.
STOP! YOU! HUHHHH...?
I-I CAN FIRE ENERGY BEAMS!
I'D STOLEN FOR ALCHEMAX ALL OVER THE GLOBE...
IT WAS TIME TO START STEALING FOR MYSELF... IT FELT CLEANER.
IF I CAN CONTROL MY MOLECULAR DENSITY... IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ENTER THIS SAFE... AND-- IF I'M LUCKY--AFFECT THE CONTENTS LONG ENOUGH TO--
YES!
DEAN! YOU'RE STEALING!
I WONDER...
YES! I'M GOING TO GET YOU THE BEST HELP MONEY CAN BUY, CHUCK... HIS MONEY.

THAT WAS THE FIRST... IT GETS EASIER EVERY TIME!
NO ONE CAN CATCH HOTWIRE...!
NOT ALCHEMAX... NOT THEIR PET ARMY... NOT THEIR PET COPS...
NOT EVEN THE SUPER-COP WHO USED TO BE MY FATHER!
TO BE CONTINUED!